



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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**NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZED CRIME
DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE ("OCDETF")**

**MANCHESTER MAN CONVICTED OF DRUG TRAFFICKING
AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

Re: United States v. Peter FOSTER

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau Matthew J. Etre, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division Rebecca Sparkman, New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka and Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration June W. Stansbury, announce that Peter FOSTER, 35, of Manchester, New Hampshire was convicted on October 14, 2005 on federal drug trafficking and money laundering charges.

FOSTER entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro to a two-count information charging him with possession with intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine and money laundering. The charges arose from the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF") investigation of the Christopher Bouchard drug trafficking organization. (Bouchard, along with several others, is under indictment as a drug enterprise leader in the Hillsborough County Superior Court.) FOSTER was released to the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office pending his January 27, 2006 sentencing hearing in U.S. District Court. The maximum penalty for the charges is a 20-year period of imprisonment.

According to an affidavit in support of a Criminal Complaint issued by Magistrate Judge Muirhead, during August, September and October, 2004 FOSTER laundered \$35,000 in purported drug proceeds supplied to him by an undercover federal agent, and agreed to transfer a parcel of Peterborough, New Hampshire, real estate in exchange for five kilograms of cocaine. FOSTER was arrested upon taking possession of the cocaine.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: “This case exemplifies this Office’s commitment to the OCDETF program. The joint investigative efforts of ICE, the IRS, the New Hampshire State Police, the Manchester Police Department, and DEA have once again fulfilled the OCDETF program’s main objective as it relates to our state: to reduce the drug supply in New England, and in the State of New Hampshire in particular. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal narcotics laws and commit federal resources to the OCDETF program in New Hampshire.”

The conviction was the product of a joint OCDETF investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the New Hampshire State Police, the Manchester Police Department, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution is being handled by First Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDETF”), Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert Rabuck of the Civil Division’s Asset Forfeiture Section, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Morrell of the N.H. Attorney General’s Office.

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